St. Petersburg: known for sandy beaches, diverse culture and famous archaeological sites. Every two years, USF St. Petersburg anthropology students set out to Weedon Island in search of ancient artifacts—read about their most recent expedition here.

**ARTS, STARVING ARTIST**

The disqualification left presidential candidate Kaeden Kelso and running mate Ysatis Jordan to run unopposed. After the disqualification, McQueen brought her case to the SG supreme court, stating that the rule regarding signatures was not binding and that the commission violated its own rules in how it conducted the Feb. 12 meeting.

In a general business meeting Feb. 19, the supreme court decided it would not take McQueen’s case after an hour and a half of deliberation.

Shannon Scallon, SG supervisor of elections, waived her right to having SG’s attorney general serve as their legal counsel in the meeting. Instead, she was represented by student body president David Thompson.

“My job was supposed to be to represent the supervisor of elections, and I understand why she may not have wanted me to represent her,” SG attorney general Marion Nuraj said. “However, that’s why we have deputy attorney generals. In this case, a special counsel could’ve been appointed to represent her.”

Although he believes that Thompson’s move was unethical, Nuraj decided he would not pursue the issue further because “there is no statute that prevents (Thompson) from representing a member in court.”

When McQueen was elected to senate in October 2016, her goal was to eventually run for student body president. As a junior, she is disappointed that this was her “last chance” to achieve that goal.

“If you had asked me how long I wanted to stay in Student Government three years ago, my answer would’ve been 10 years,” McQueen said.

“I’ve gone to the dean of students, I’ve gone to Dwayne Isaacs (director of student life and engagement) twice, I’ve gone to Patti Helton, I’ve gone to Dr. Tadlock. I’ve basically been pointed in a circle.”

“I don’t know why she may not have wanted me to represent her,” SG attorney general Marion Nuraj said. “However, that’s why we have deputy attorney generals. In this case, a special counsel could’ve been appointed to represent her.”

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Meet the 2018 senate candidates

By Anna Bryson
annabryson@mail.usf.edu
and Delaney Brown
delaneybrown@mail.usf.edu
and Jonah Hinebaugh
jonah@mail.usf.edu

Tiffany Porcelli, 20, is a sophomore political science major from East Lake, Florida. She was elected as a student government senator last year and is running for re-election. She serves as the University and Community Affairs Chairwoman, and sits on the Senate Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Special Funding.

She wrote “We Stand With Parkland,” a joint resolution stating that USF St. Petersburg stands behind those affected by the mass shooting at Marjory Douglas High School. A main goal for her is to create equal opportunities for all students. She enjoys talking with students to hear concerns and solve problems.

“I want to represent the marginalized, including the freshmen and sophomores who feel like they don’t have a strong voice,” she described herself as an objective leader who doesn’t let emotion play a role in her decision-making.

A goal of hers is for student government to be more involved with people on campus. Warren said she feels like student government seems closed off to students and a goal of hers is to make it seem more open and to make students feel more comfortable participating and talking to their leaders.

“I want to bridge that gap between the people that are officials and those that are constituents,” Warren said.

She also has a creative side that she shows through her painting and crocheting.

VOTING, continued from P1

student affairs here. He was born in Texas, but moved around as a child – living in Florida three separate times as well as Kentucky and Indiana.

The political science major said he wants to leave USF St. Petersburg a better university.

Jordan, a junior, was born in San Diego but raised in Kissimmee in central Florida. She said she knew she wanted to run for president or vice president as soon as she arrived at the university.

She said she and Kelso are a good choice because they know the inner workings of campus and student government.

Kelso is the senate special funding chair and Jordan is the senate pro tempore.

Together they hope to be the voice of the student body and to engage with students on a personal level.

“I want to make sure we focus more on the students than we did in the past because those are the people who elected us and those we represent,” Jordan said.

They want to keep their lack of opposition as a sign it was meant to be.

“It’s like my mother always told me. For every choice you make you will either reap the benefit or have to face the consequences of your actions,” Kelso said.

Kelso attended a campus town hall meeting Thursday that was marked by the apathy that has dogged student elections in recent years. Jordan was unavailable to attend because of a commitment with the Student Leadership Institute.

About 20 students attended. Seven were candidates, two were members of SG and three are on The Crow’s Nest staff.

Two senate candidates stepped down before the election — Albert Moreno, the former SG appropriations chair, and Thomas Ryan, an SG associate justice, who wishes to remain on the ballot for his classmates to vote.

Student body president David Thompson and Shannon Scaron, the SG supervisor of elections, led a candidate through a series of questions regarding how USF St. Petersburg has affected  and what they hope to change in SG.

Mary Jacobsen, a junior senate candidate, said that if elected she hopes to see more student engagement from the student body. This hope was echoed by Tiffany Porcelli, incumbent SG senator.

Kelso said that SG could do a better job informing students of when and where its meetings are held.

“I personally feel like it’s not public knowledge. I’ve talked to a lot of (students) who told me they do not have an opportunity to come in and express their concerns and they said, ‘Oh I didn’t know any of your meetings were public,’ and they’re all open door policy,” she said. “So I feel Student Government could have made it better to let (students) know their options.”

But why is it so important that students are tuned into what is happening at SG meetings? The executive, legislative and judicial branches are responsible for being the voice of the student body. Kelso said that in order for them to represent students they need to be aware of student concerns.

“This campus shouldn’t (think negatively about SG). We’re all students, it’s not like we’re a federal government and we’re way up here, like we’re all on the same playing field,” said Jacobsen. “Student Government is here to help the school — to help us.”

Considering the amount of money they control and the power they wield on campus the questions asked to senators were surprisingly tame. The questions focused on what brought the candidates to the university and what their most significant academic contributions would be.

The questions brought answers that sang praises for the university’s small class sizes and the beauty of the waterfront campus.

The presidential questions were more hard hitting and focused on transparency — one of Kelso and Jordan’s platform values — sustainability and collaborating with fellow student organizations.

Kelso said that he hopes to focus on getting more students involved in both SG and student organizations through student government partnerships. He also stressed the importance of advocating for students on issues like the proposed consolidation of the Tampa and St. Petersburg campuses.

Though six of the seven senate candidates haven’t held office before, they seem confident in their ability to bring positive change.
MCQUEEN, continued from P1

weeks ago, I would’ve said, “I want to stay until I graduate,” McQueen said. “But the last couple of weeks, a lot of the true colors of Student Government have been revealed.”

“As an outsider or even someone who wasn’t directly working with the top leadership in Student Government, I didn’t necessarily see the toxicity.”

McQueen said she pushed for serving students as a senator. During her term, she attended conferences in Washington D.C. and Jacksonville seeking strategies to improve elections on a campus with low voter turnout.

Two months into her term as senator, McQueen became policy chair and assumed the roles of conducting committee meetings, updating the senate at general assembly meetings and taking an unabashed stance on policy proposals.

“No matter how I felt about a bill — while it wasn’t stated in the rules — I felt obligated to have (no) bias because that’s really a role the chair should play, especially when it comes to policy,” McQueen said.

Now, McQueen said she plans to focus her energy on her academics and looks forward to “gaining a different experience professionally.”

“I’ve spent a year and a half in Student Government, and while I wish emotionally I could’ve stayed longer, I think it’s time that I move on and earn more skills in a different environment,” she said.

Aside from advocating against consolidation, McQueen wants to establish a lobbyist club to help keep students informed and involved.

“I noticed as a senator, when I talked to students, not a lot of them really (know) what happens in Student Government,” she said. “If I’m able to pass on the knowledge of process of what goes on in Student Government, what goes on in our public government, that would really help students become more involved on this campus.”

McQueen hopes her resignation will serve as a learning experience for leaders in Student Government.

“This is not a battle I want to fight anymore,” she said. “I hope that Student Government members become more aware of their procedural errors and how to learn from making mistakes, and also to respect who you work with more.”

Student archaeologists find remnants of past

By Anna Bryson

ucked away in the most northerly county in Florida is a 3,190-acre coastal system that indigenous peoples occupied for thousands of years. USF St. Petersburg anthropology students conducted excavations at this natural area on Old Tampa Bay called Weedon Island. Led by John W. Arthur, associate professor of anthropology at USF St. Petersburg, 16 students unearthed artifacts of indigenous peoples every weekend in February.

Weedon Island, located in North St. Petersburg, is home to one of the most famous archaeological sites in the Southeast known for unearthed beautiful pottery. Students who participated in the excavations are enrolled in the class Seminar in Archaeological Methods and Theory.

The class was created by Dr. John Arthur and is only taught once every two years because it takes students two years after the class to analyze all of the materials found in the excavation.

The site the students excavated is the type site for Weedon Island, meaning it is considered the model of the Weedon Island people’s culture.

Dr. John Arthur is president of the Alliances for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education, which is a non-profit organization that fosters long-term archaeological research on Weedon Island.

The class, which is for undergraduate students but has graduate student volunteers, uncovers the rich cultural history of the indigenous people by uncovering and analyzing artifacts they find on the site.

“A lot of times I’ve done archaeology where you dig and you don’t find anything,” Dr. John Arthur said.

This recent expedition is far from the case.

Students this semester have made incredible discoveries, including post holes, which suggest the remnants of an open house. Marsh mussels were used to stabilize the posts, which leads students to investigate the possible symbolic meaning.

“We found multiple artifacts laying flat, which is a unique thing that students get at USFSP,” said Liz Southard, Dr. Arthur’s graduate education assistant. “This is evidence of a structure or living surface, which was really exciting.”

The students also spent two summers in Ethiopia with Dr. John Arthur and his wife, Dr. Kathy Arthur, who is also an anthropologist professor at USF St. Petersburg.

“They continue to serve as mentors for me post graduate, which is a unique thing that students get at USFSP as opposed to huge campuses,” said Southard.

“It’s unique for students to be able to conduct excavations and get real field work experience during their undergraduate program. They gain firsthand experience in proper excavation techniques and learn how to look for anomalies that describe human behavior. Students are working with Dr. John Arthur on an article that they intend to publish in a peer-reviewed journal.

On the site, students also found what looks like an ancient vessel filled with remnants of shell-based tools such as hammers.

Through excavations, students have found clues about the indigenous people of Weedon Island; their diet, activities and everyday lives.

Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, who previously said that USF St. Petersburg has no “vision,” now wants to know what community’s concerns are and enlisted interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock to find them.

THE CROW’S NEST
Leroy Bridges, head of digital "Mickey and Miami," said in Florida, right behind most visited tourist destination USF St. Petersburg campus. – one of 40 panels during a tourism in the Sunshine City” discuss “international cultural tourism marketing agency to organization and the local orchestra, an arts support institution in St. Petersburg.”

Art helps bridge gaps and understanding between individuals, she said, and the museum specializes in illuminating points of human history, Griff Davis said. “We have the Morean collection and the Museum of Fine Arts. We have the Dali Museum. We have the Museum of Fine Arts. We have the Morean collection (of Dale Chihuly art). We have the Florida Orchestra, and when we work together this is something very exciting.”

Increasing cultural tourism in St. Petersburg would feed even more revenue into small businesses and the community, according to Susana Weymouth, executive director of Tampa Bay Businesses for Culture & the Arts. Weymouth cited a nationwide arts and economic study conducted by Americans for the Arts that found that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over $166.3 billion in economic activity every year. Of that number, $63.8 billion is spent by arts and cultural organizations and $102.5 billion is from tourists’ spending on meals, drinks and clothing.

"The revenue is feeding into, directly into, small businesses and our community and making them stronger and more prosperous," Weymouth said.

By Whitney Elfstrom wellstrom@mail.usf.edu

Downtown St. Petersburg is overflowing with murals, galleries and live music, but what makes it an "arts mecca?"

Four people who ought to know agreed Thursday that the Museum of Fine Arts and the Florida Orchestra are key magnets in attracting cultural tourists.

“We draw visitors from all over because no matter where you’re from, the arts are for you and you can find yourself through the art," said Kristen Shepherd, executive director of the Museum of Fine Arts. "It helps bridge gaps and understanding between individuals, she said, and the museum specializes in illuminating points of human experience through works of art from across different cultures and time periods.

Shepherd also said that international visitors have told her that their visit to the museum “was one of the marvelous surprises of being in St. Petersburg.”

She joined panelists from the orchestra, an arts support organization and the local tourism marketing agency to discuss “international cultural tourism in the Sunshine City” – one of 40 panels during a world affairs conference on the USF St. Petersburg campus.

St. Petersburg is the third most visited tourist destination in Florida, right behind "Mickey and Miami,” said Leroy Bridges, head of digital marketing and public relations at Visit St. Pete/Clearwater.

To Michael Francis, music director of the Florida Orchestra, the key to increasing cultural tourism is the local arts scene bonding through partnerships. He cited the orchestra’s collaborations with the Museum of Fine Arts and the Dali Museum to transform artwork into music. “In St. Petersburg we have something spectacular,” said Francis. "We have the glorious Dali Museum. We have the Museum of Fine Arts. We have the Morean collection (of Dale Chihuly art). We have the Florida Orchestra, and when we work together this is something very exciting.”

By Martha Rhine Contributor

Of the many examples of African-American leaders in United States history, Griff Davis stood out for his unique contributions as a photographer, journalist and diplomat.

That was how Griff wished to be remembered. His daughter, Dorothy, shared her father’s story alongside many of his photographs during a presentation for the sixth annual St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs on Feb. 22.

Griff’s photographs exhibited his penchant for capturing thought-provoking moments of African-Americans in a segregated United States. The photographs featured influential moments and figures in U.S. history such as Langston Hughes, Thurgood Marshall and Martin Luther King Jr. Griff worked as the campus photographer for Spelman College and Morehouse College, where he attended, and as a freelance photographer for the Atlanta Daily World and Hughes, who was a mentor and friend.

He served in the Army during WWII as a Buffalo Soldier and later as the first African-American art editor for Ebony Magazine before attending Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Griff’s photographs for the Palmer Memorial Institute in North Carolina was his breakthrough project for Ebony Magazine. The school was the first black boarding school that prepared students for college. His photographs depicted black youth dancing at prom, playing tennis and praying before meals.

"Photography was the only way he could express himself as a black man," Dorothy said.

Griff’s pioneering role with the U.S. Foreign Service led him to Liberia, where he continued to work as a freelance photographer and diplomat.

After her father’s death, Dorothy set out to compile his work – a process that took her two years. It took another 25 years to piece together his story.

By Anna Bryson annabryson@mail.usf.edu

Despite accounting for only 4 percent of the U.S. population, the U.S. uses 96 percent of its opioids.

At least that’s what Ighal Paroo, a moderator at the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs, told a crowd of about 60 people at a panel on Feb. 22 in the USF St. Petersburg Business Auditorium.

Paroo, a Tampa Bay-based consultant on health care systems and investment strategies, moderated a panel titled “How’d we get hooked? The opioid pandemic and what to do about it.”

The panelists sought to clear up confusion surrounding the crisis, explain its deadly breadth, clarify the numbers thrown around by the news media and suggest solutions and preventive measures.

Opioid overdose is the leading cause of death for Americans under 50, said Susan Tuite, a Florida Bar board-certified health care attorney. How did we get here? Tuite explained that when Purdue Pharma petitioned the Food and Drug Administration to approve OxyContin in 1995, the company marketed it as a drug that was different from other opioids and would not cause addiction.

But since OxyContin hit the shelves in 1996, she said, more than 560,000 Americans have died from opioid abuse.

The opioid crisis has become a global issue, said Gilles Raguin, a medical doctor and infectious disease specialist who works with drug users internationally.

In Europe, substitution treatment for opioid addiction is free, Raguin said. But in the U.S. there are not a lot of facilities that use substitution treatment, and it is very expensive where it is available. Another part of the disparity in addiction rates between the U.S. and other countries could be Americans’ attitudes toward pain relief, said Dr. Donna Petersen, dean of the College of Public Health and senior associate vice president at USF Health.

“Americans have the idea that they should not have to feel pain and it should be able to be managed,” said Petersen.

Petersen emphasized the importance of a public health approach, instead of a criminal one, because the opioid abuse crisis is a multifaceted public health challenge.

All of the panelists conveyed that compassion is a key part of the solution. People did not just wake up and decide to become addicts, they said.

As part of a comprehensive approach, they said, stigmas about substance abuse and mental health need to be addressed as part of the solution.

Prevention is key.

Petersen cited a Los Angeles Times article about how Purdue Pharma and a network of international companies known as Mundipharma are moving into Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East to promote opioids for pain relief.

“As the credits roll on the U.S.’s horrible experience, I hope the sequel is not about this moving out into the rest of the world,” Petersen said.
Former ambassador: US Diplomacy vital

By Nancy McCann
Contributor

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today’s international environment is the strangest and most unpredictable he has ever seen. That assessment came Tuesday from Thomas R. Pickering, a former U.S. ambassador to Russia, who told an audience of almost 500 at the opening of St. Petersburg’s Conference on World Affairs that the art of diplomacy is changing very quickly.

In the conference’s keynote address, Pickering said the rapid decline of democratic norms in Washington and high-speed electronic communication don’t leave us with “much time to think these days.”

China and Russia are “particularly challenging,” he said, but this does not mean we are “inevitably destined to enter into broad conflicts with either of them.”

Pickering said because of the “diminishment” of the United States’ popularity around the world, diplomatic relationships are vital. It is also important to avoid unintended consequences by understanding how the problems of the world are “deeply intertwined,” such as energy policy, the environment and climate change, he said.

Pickering’s career as a U.S. diplomat stretched over five decades. He was the under secretary of state for political affairs in 1997-2000 and served as ambassador to Russia, India, Israel, Nigeria, Jordan, El Salvador and the United Nations.

He has the title of career ambassador, the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service, and is now chairman of the board of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service.

Pickering’s address kicked off four days of presentations from more than 70 diplomats, academics, authors and business executives on the USF St. Petersburg campus.

The sixth annual international affairs conference is expected to draw about 2,000 people to hear from nearly 40 panels of experts. It ends Friday.

In his keynote address, Pickering offered an overringing message: Avoid single solutions, like relying solely on the military to solve problems in countries like Iran, Syria and North Korea. He said he is nervous “in this day and age where presidents speak lightly of using nuclear weapons.”

Diplomacy should be “out in front” and the military should be used in instances where we have to defend the country, he said. “Diplomacy always works best when we have the world’s best military, the world’s best economy and the world’s best set of principles and values.”

Pickering said he agrees with President Donald Trump in “ratcheting up pressure on North Korea,” but said that it needs to be linked with the opening of diplomatic channels.

He likened toughness without diplomacy to welding the top of a pressure cooker shut. If it keeps on going, he said, it will explode.

“We are not as a government well configured to deal with this rapidly changing world,” said Pickering.

But in the end, he said, the fundamental checks and balances of our system will prevail.

Diplomacy or a big stick?

By Jeffrey Waitkevich
jwaitkevich@mail.usf.edu

Diplomacy has changed the way people get to war, and America has played a heavy hand in it.

At the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs on Friday, four diplomats discussed how important diplomacy is in every international conflict and how it is evolving.

Their panel was titled “War vs. Diplomacy: Which one, when?”

Moderator Pierre Guerlain, an assistant professor of American Studies at Université Paris-panterre, France, said that the early description of diplomacy was summed up in Theodore Roosevelt’s famous quote, “speak softly and carry a big stick.”

Now, Guerlain asked, “When do you use the big stick?”

During World War I, all the world’s powers wanted to avoid war but accepted it because diplomacy was absent, said Charles Skinner, a retired U.S. Foreign Service officer who teaches courses on foreign policy and diplomacy at the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.

According to Paul Berg, a member of the USF Foreign Services since 1983, diplomacy originated on the ideology that using words were important for countries to win wars. Then the U.S. brought in the “uniquely American win-win proposition,” he said.

This idea that would allow everyone to benefit is the key to diplomacy, Skinner said, since a reconstruction project with everyone involved would make terrorism extremely difficult in attacking the whole world.”

“There are problems in the world,” said Skinner. “Usually these problems are bigger than any country in the world, bigger than the United States. Without diplomacy we need to solve them is cooperation.”

Former ambassador Herman J. Cohen, who retired after serving as assistant secretary of state for African affairs under President George H. W. Bush, noted that the biggest change has been in communication.

Before the instant messaging of today, Cohen said, he was only able to receive messages during a set time frame at his location in Africa. He said that he found out that Panamanian leader Noriega had been assassinated when he received a call that required phone lines to be turned on after hours.

Despite the revamped communication abilities and realization that unity was necessary for success, there is still room for improvement, Berg said.

America still doesn’t have the necessary institutions for success, he said, and when it does succeed, it is usually because of the efforts of individuals.

Campus may get 3 new majors, says chancellor

By Tim Fanning
Contributor

USF St. Petersburg may be getting engineering, hospitality and insurance risk management majors in the coming years.

Interim Regional Chancellor Martin Tadlock made that announcement Feb. 22 during a panel discussion at the St. Petersburg Conference on World Affairs.

Although light on specifics, Tadlock said talks have already begun with the Tampa and Sarasota-Manatee campuses to bring those majors to St. Petersburg.

His comments came during a discussion titled “How do we make our education systems more relevant?” Although they are still in the discussion stage, the three potential majors are gaining the interest of businesses in the Pinellas County community, Tadlock said.

TradeWinds Island Resorts on St. Pete Beach was part of a conversation last week with the Sarasota-Manatee campus and St. Petersburg administration, he said.

“We got what the big picture would look like for students,” Tadlock said.

“We talked about what (the resort’s) needs are, and what they’re looking for. We talked about internships and other opportunities they (would) have here at USF, so we can eventually build that relationship,” Tadlock said.

Tadlock said he and Robert H. Bishop, the dean of the College of Engineering in Tampa, have begun discussions on a feasibility study that would identify the needs of Pinellas County and the specific engineering fields the college could offer in St. Petersburg.

Engineering is one of the three programs that leaders of the USF system have promised to invest in here if a proposal to abolish the St. Petersburg campus’ separate accreditation is enacted by the legislature.

The others are health care and marine science.

The controversial consolidation bill, which would put St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Pinellas County under the control of Tampa, is still pending in Tallahassee.

In insurance risk management, a program tied to the Tampa finance major, would be on the table for St. Petersburg, Tadlock said. The Sarasota-Manatee campus began offering a risk management and insurance major last fall.

Two potential majors in hospitality, engineering and insurance risk management, like many of the majors at USF St. Petersburg, would be geared to meet future career needs in Pinellas County, Tadlock said.

Preliminary discussions also discussed an increase in campus jobs for students. Since the school has established relationships within the community, he said, the number of students involved in internships off campus has “dramatically increased” in the last five years.

THE CROW’S NEST
February 26, 2018

ENCE ON WORLD AFFAIRS

It is important to recognize that the world’s problems are “deeply intermeshed,” Thomas R. Pickering declares at the campus’ sixth annual conference on world affairs.

Diplomacy or a big stick?

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jwaitkevich@mail.usf.edu

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USF football needs stronger conference

By Michael Ferguson
Contributor

It seems like USF wants to be taken seriously in football, they need to be in a better conference.

But first they need to crush the conference they’re already in.

What the Bulls have accomplished over the past two seasons is no easy task. They had double-digit wins and came in second place in the American Athletic East.

Coming in second is the problem though — it’s good, but not good enough. They also didn’t even make it to the American Athletic Conference championship game in either of those seasons.

A larger problem with being in the AAC for football is the lack of competition.

University of Central Florida, Houston and Memphis have shown that they’re threats, but teams like UConn and Cincinnati are barely blips on the radar for the Bulls — let alone the rest of the country.

Beating the weaker teams isn’t something to brag about. The Bulls are expected to win, so those wins are just avoiding embarrassment.

The second biggest problem is on the homefront. Despite playing easier teams, USF hasn’t been able to overcome the hump of losing their first game, which would send them to the AAC championship game.

Last season, even with a home loss against Houston, USF was only one game away from the championship game. This is obviously easier said than done as conference rival UCF went on to finish the season undefeated with a win over Auburn, but the rivalry game was still decisive.

In the season before that, if USF beat Temple, the Bulls could’ve gone on to host the championship game.

Despite not playing in the championship game, USF did beat Power 5 teams at the Birmingham Bowl two years in a row. The problem was that the teams they beat, South Carolina and Texas Tech, were 6-6 and still gave the Bulls, who were 1-0-2 one year and 9-2 the other, a run for their money.

Nevertheless, USF has shown dominance in the AAC throughout the years, so the next item on the “USF shopping list” should be looking for a better conference. The Big 12 should be at the top of the list because it is a perfect fit as both feature high-scoring offenses. The only problem with this is that the Big 12 is seen as the weakest of the Power 5 conferences because it hasn’t won anything major during the playoff era.

The Big 12 passed on expansion in 2016, but USF has shown improvement in the following years, with two double-digit win seasons and an improvement in television ratings, as well as attendance.

It is only a matter of time before the Power 5 adds a couple of teams, and USF should be one of them.

Moreover, the PAC-12 Conference and the Big 10 Conference are out of the question. Putting geographical location aside, Big 10 ball is too dominant on both sides of the ball.

USF just isn’t good enough yet to compete. The PAC-12 should also be crossed off of the list because their style of game, which is full of offensive weapons and respectable defense, run plays and formations that would confuse the life out of the Bulls’ defense.

Letter to the Editor: Tragedy’s lessons

By Alyssa Winston
USFSP 2016 Graduate

When I tried to describe my hometown to people, I’d say it was a tiny town with a few traffic lights and more horses than people.

Now that tiny, quiet town has been shaken to its core and is being covered on news stations across the United States.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School is one of the focal points of our town. You really can’t go anywhere in Parkland without passing the high school.

But now my high school has become both a crime scene and a memorial.

I was in the first freshman class to use Building 12, and now, less than ten years later, it’s going to be destroyed because no one will ever want to enter that building again. My memories of that building involved worrying about whether I’d make it to class on time or if I’d pass a test that day.

Douglas students’ memories of Building 12 will now be of their friends and teachers playing in the front of them, and having to hide in closets and pray for their lives.

Seventeen families lost loved ones. Faculty and students’ lives will be forever changed. And our community will never be the same.

My senior research at USF was a 30-page paper advocating stricter gun regulations for those with mental health illnesses, with a focus on mass shootings.

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Legal aid program offers guidance to students

By Luke Cross
lukecross@mail.usf.edu

Students Government’s office of the attorney general is offering a program that provides USF St. Petersburg students with free legal advice.

The Legal Aid program pairs students with local licensed attorneys looking for pro-bono work. The attorneys provide students with advice on any legal issue – including criminal charges, traffic tickets, misdemeanors, felonies, divorce or civil law.

“When I was contacted by the solicitor general for the Tampa campus, I jumped on that ship right away,” said Marion Nuraj, Student Government’s attorney general. “It’s just so beneficial for students. Certainly now, with all the negativity going around.”

While the attorneys can provide legal guidance, the program does not include free representation in court.

“Students can get free legal advice, but hiring one of the attorneys needs to be paid for and depends on if the attorney wants to take the case or not,” Nuraj said.

There is no limit to the amount of legal aid appointments a student can request, but the program hasn’t seen much use since it came to USF St. Petersburg.

“USF Tampa has had a Legal Aid program for about a year,” Nuraj said. “We’ve had this program in place for about six months; however, we haven’t had much media coverage so not many students know about it.”

Due to the low demand, there are currently two attorneys partnered with USF. St Petersburg’s Legal Aid program.

“If we get more requests, I’ll look into bringing more lawyers to match student needs. I’m confident we can get more if we need to,” Nuraj said.

Students looking to request legal aid should contact Nuraj, who will provide them with a waiver to fill out before any advice can be given.

The form and request won’t go on the student’s record or file or anything. It’s here to hold us liable that they won’t use the services to sue the university,” Nuraj said.

The program cannot be used against the university, but legal issues with fellow students are fair game.

“One student can be another student’s tenant, and they can get legal advice on how to fight their tenants decisions,” Nuraj said. “Anything with a legal process surrounding it, the attorneys can help with.”

For more information or to request legal aid, contact Marion Nuraj at nurajm@mail.usf.edu.

What to do this week: Feb. 26-March 4

By Ashley Campbell
Contributor

MONDAY
Hey Bulls! This week is Spring Wellness Week.

To start off the week there will be free massages and refreshments from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. in SLC 2100. Be sure to sign up, spots are filling up quickly.

TUESDAY
On day two of Wellness Week you can enjoy games while getting free safe sex supplies and spring break kits. “Sextavaganza” will be from noon until 2:30 p.m. on Harborwalk. For the second event of the day enjoy a free massage again. To claim your free 20 minute massage, head to SLC 2200 from 1 until 4 p.m. Be sure to call ahead (727-873-4422).

Ken Nwadike Jr., the founder of Free Hugs Project will be on campus in the USC Ballrooms. This event is open to the campus and community. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
A free suicide prevention training will be in SLC 2200 from noon to 1:30 p.m for all students, staff, and faculty. Space is limited so be sure to sign up! Also, there will be free HIV screening in SLC 2200 from 1 until 3 p.m. There will be in SLC 2200. Your results will be ready within 20 minutes. All you have to do is call (727) 873-4422.

THURSDAY
The Metro Wellness Mobile Testing Unit will be providing free Hepatitis C and HIV screenings from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. To continue the free goodies trend, there will be free health and wellness screenings, and more free spring break kits from 12:30 p.m until 2:30 p.m on the SLC Patio.

FRIDAY
Head on over to Open Mic Night: Social Media & Self Esteem at The Edge from 6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Students may submit original work about mental health and how social media plays a role in your self esteem. Enjoy free food, music, poetry and more!

SATURDAY
Are you a fan of seafood? Then check out the 2nd Annual St. Petersburg Seafood & Music Festival from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Sunday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday in Vinoy Park. There will be live music and plenty of food to eat. General admission is $7 at the gate or $5 in advance. There will also be a variety of marketplace arts and crafts and products that will have a nautical theme.

SUNDAY
Join The Righteous Brothers, comprised of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Bill Medley and Bucky Heard, for a rendition of their radio hits in concert at the Mahaffey Theater from 7 until 9 p.m. Tickets range from $39 to $69.
Passion outweighs pay for adjunct professor

By Andrea Perez
Contributor

A s a fine arts undergraduate, Kate Alboreo knew that she’d find joy in teaching. Preparing for it, however, has become a persistent race against the clock. Now a 30-year-old graphic design adjunct professor, the artist juggles time to plan for classes while attempting to provide students with the space to discover their creative mark.

“My love to do is really challenging and it’s a taxing profession,” Alboreo said. “When asked about time management and its effect on class performance, she was quick to emphasize that although her dedication is strongly consistent, not getting paid enough for the time spent on planning lectures is frustrating.

Alboreo taught the remaining days of the week while filling in part time at a restaurant on the weekends. “As an adjunct and as a new teacher, I spend a lot of time developing lessons, demos and lectures,” Alboreo said. Although Alboreo is paid for working 28 hours a week, which includes 4 office hours, she spends roughly 10 to 20 hours planning lessons. As an adjunct with a master’s degree, she makes $3,000 per course but still relies on her other jobs to cover daily expenses and student loan payments.

“I have to keep other jobs because adjuncting is so unpredictable,” she said. “Last semester I thought I was going to have three classes and then one of them didn’t get enough enrollment. So when I don’t get enough classes I have to kind of hold on to something else.”

The best thing I saw most unions offering was job security — it is tough to fire union employees, and rarely were they paid any better,” Alboreo said. “The thing I love to do is to offer non-union employees, and rarely were they paid any better.”

The Campus Grind hosts student art gallery

By Dylan Hart
Contributor

A long with the aroma of brewing coffee and the laid-back atmosphere of the Cafe Grind, a new addition: student art.

The Grind hosted a student art gallery on Feb. 23, that showcased painting, drawings and photography for visitors to enjoy.

“A few years ago, The Grind collected art shows, but then it stopped for a variety of reasons,” said Chris Christell, multimedia specialist for VideoWorks and adjunct professor of photography. “[The Grind] asked if we wanted to do it again, and I thought it would be a great opportunity for students to show their stuff.”

Campbell expressed a desire to return to more regular student art exhibits in partnership with The Grind and has encouraged his students to submit their work.

The Campus Grind, a coffee bar tied to USF St. Petersburg, is located on the east end of campus, sharing a building with The Tavern at Bayboro.

Art from the exhibit ranged from Campbell’s students’ landscape photography to abstract paintings and drawings displayed separately from the photography on the wall.

Haley Jordan, a senior in journalism major, submitted two art pieces to the gallery. One of them is an undead chihuahua and the other is my cat,” said Jordan, who makes art in her spare time, expressing the tediousness of painting for her.

Submitted art ranged vastly in theme. While landscape photography was a well-represented artform, paintings, drawings and more avant garde mediums such as a large cereal advertisement were sparse in comparison.

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